FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS
ON THE SALMON NATIONAL FOREST
1971

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The only insect which caused concern during 1971 on the Salmon National Forest was the Douglas-fir beetle, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopkins. A striking decrease in the number of fading Douglas-fir as recorded during aerial survey indicates a significant downward trend in 1971. Tree mortality, although considerably less than last year, was still widely scattered over most of the Forest. Heaviest concentrations of Douglas-fir mortality occurred in Bear Basin Creek, Pine Creek, Garden Creek, Fourth of July Creek (D-1) and North Fork Iron Creek. Where practical, these areas should be logged to remove infested, dead, and ultimately threatened old growth timber.

During the 1970-1971 winter, several areas experienced above normal snow breakage and blowdown. Of these, the following areas were examined in 1971 and designated as possible new infestation centers: Stein Gulch, Fourth of July Creek (D-2), Deep Creek, and Panther Creek (upper end). In addition, newly infested logs were observed in Panther Creek and Deep Creek, but none were found in Stein Gulch or Fourth of July Creek. The infested material in Panther Creek contained parent adults and eggs while in Deep Creek only adults were found. In either case, the downed material was infested and will probably rear adult beetles by next spring. Depending on the amount and size of this material, these areas could have a marked influence on the 1972 trend. These and other areas will be closely examined during the spring of 1972.

Two opposing factors may have an effect on this year's uncertain trend: (1) decreasing trend in 1970 and 1971, and (2) above normal snow breakage and blowdown last winter. Disregarding the influence of last winter's damage, a decreasing trend would be forthcoming. Winter damage, however, may reverse this trend and cause a slight resurgence in 1972. In either case, tree killing should be light.